

B. In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1 through 51 without prejudice. Please add claim 52.

Following are the claims:

Claims 1-51 (canceled)

52. (previously presented) A method for identifying a composition which stimulates or inhibits the level of expression of an early gene, fos, myc, or jun comprising:

a. incubating components comprising a neuroblast and a composition to be tested for the ability to stimulate or inhibit early gene expression in the neuroblast, wherein the incubating is carried out under conditions and for a time sufficient to allow the composition to be tested to bind to the neuroblast and to allow the neuroblast to be cultured in the absence of oncogenic transformation and in a vessel in a serum-free basal media supplemented with about 1 ng/ml to 100 ng/ml of basic fibroblast growth factor, wherein a surface in the vessel allows attachment of the cells, and wherein the neuroblast proliferates for greater than seven days, and thereby can result in a long term continuously proliferating neuroblast culture; and

b. detecting an effect of the composition of the expression of one or more of fos, myc, or jun, thereby identifying a composition that stimulates or inhibits early gene expression of fos, myc, or jun in the neuroblast.